

are the work of his own industrious pencil. The backgrounds also show great artistic talent, and the colouring, executed by the Misses Sharpe, is much to be praised.

We can scarcely doubt that this series of volumes, which, when complete, will contain figures of all the British Birds ordinarily met with, will attain great popularity.

---

XXXV.—*Obituary.*

Dr. E. D. DICKSON, C.M.Z.S., Dr. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., and Prof. ALPHONSE MILNE-EDWARDS, F.M.Z.S.

IN 'The Times' of March 28th last we find recorded the death on the previous day, at Constantinople, of EDWARD DALZEL DICKSON, one of the oldest Corresponding Members of the Zoological Society of London, having been elected to that honour in 1840. In the first series of the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings' will be found several communications from this formerly active correspondent, who, in 1839, in conjunction with Mr. H. J. Ross, transmitted to that Society numerous specimens of birds obtained in the neighbourhood of Erzerum, where he was then resident (see P. Z. S. 1839, pp. 119, 130). These were determined by Louis Fraser, at that time Curator of the Society's Museum, and their names were recorded in the 'Proceedings,' accompanied by the collectors' notes. So far as we know, they are still almost the only authority on the birds of this high district of Asia Minor. Dr. Dickson was for many years Physician to the British Embassy at Constantinople, and there made a considerable collection of the fishes of the Bosphorus, which was presented in 1839 to the British Museum (see P. Z. S. 1839, p. 135). After retiring from his official post, he settled again at Constantinople, and died there on the 27th of March last at an "advanced age."

Dr. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., Vice-President of the Zoological Society and a Member of the B.O.U. since 1892, whose form and voice were familiar to all attendants at

the principal Biological Societies of the metropolis, died at his residence in London on the 1st of April last. Mivart was born in London in 1827, and was educated at King's College and Oscot. Although called to the Bar, he devoted his time and talents almost entirely to scientific and literary pursuits, and, besides writing numerous works, chiefly biological, was a constant contributor to some of our best-known periodicals and reviews. Mivart was also an accomplished speaker, and was at one time Lecturer at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and subsequently Professor of Biology at University College. It is not necessary on the present occasion to enter into his well-known controversies with Professor Huxley, and more recently with Cardinal Vaughan, but we must not omit here to allude to his ornithological work, which was of considerable importance. Mivart had a good knowledge of the osteology of Birds, and published valuable memoirs on the axial skeletons of the Ostriches and of the Pelicans in the Zoological Society's 'Transactions,' and on the hyoids of the Parrots in the same Society's 'Proceedings.' In 1892 he issued a useful 'Manual on the Elements of Ornithology' (see *Ibis*, 1892, p. 568), and in 1896 a quarto Monograph on the Lories, beautifully illustrated by Keulemans. But it cannot be said that he greatly increased our knowledge of this splendid group of birds, except as regards its osteology and distribution, which were carefully studied and explained in the last-named work.

The late Professor ALPHONSE MILNE-EDWARDS, well known to all of us who have had occasion to consult specimens in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris, or in the adjoining Menagerie of the Jardin des Plantes (of both of which well-known institutions he was the administrative Director), ought not, perhaps, to be called an ornithologist in the narrow sense of that term usually applied to it, but had a large and varied knowledge of the whole Animal Kingdom, and was the author of several important works on the Class of Birds. The son of Henri Milne-Edwards, also a well-known zoologist, he was born in Paris in 1835, and took his medical degree

in 1859. He may be said to have passed almost his whole life in the Jardin des Plantes, where he was appointed deputy for his father in 1876. In 1891 he was elected Director of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle and of the Menagerie, as already mentioned, and held these posts until his death on the 21st of April last. Milne-Edwards's first work on Birds, published in 1866, related to the osteology of the Dodo, to which subject, as well as to the allied and other extinct birds of the Mascarene Islands, he paid considerable attention. But the great feat for which he must always deserve the gratitude of the students of this class of animals was his '*Recherches Anatomiques et Paléontologiques pour servir à l'Histoire des Oiseaux Fossiles de la France,*' which was completed in four volumes in 1872. This excellent piece of original work will be found well spoken of in '*The Ibis*' for 1866 (p. 413), and we quite coincide with what was there said of its great merits.

Alphonse Milne-Edwards was also joint author, along with M. Grandidier, of the two volumes on birds which form part of the grand series of the latter's '*Histoire Physique, Naturelle et Politique de Madagascar.*' This portion of the work was finished in 1879, and is the chief authority on the members of that most strange and interesting Ornis. More recently (1893) he published, in conjunction with M. Oustalet, in the volume which commemorates the centenary of the foundation of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris, a memoir upon birds now extinct of which specimens are contained in the Museum (see *Ibis*, 1894, p. 440). A reference to the General Subject-Index of '*The Ibis,*' recently issued, will supply the titles of various other works of the deceased naturalist relating to the Class of Birds; but enough, we think, has been said to show that Alphonse Milne-Edwards during his busy life made many excellent contributions to our knowledge of the Class of Birds, on the osteology of which, indeed, he was one of our best authorities.